

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3-6, 9-14 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Those claims have accordingly been rewritten and the dependencies of the remaining claims have been amended. Claims 1 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application. Applicants believe that the present amendment renders the remainder of the Examiner's rejections moot.

Applicants accordingly respectfully request allowance of the pending claims and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. If the Examiner believes there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, or if there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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